

The Honorable Michael K. Powell
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Chairman Powell:

I am writing to you today as a current satellite TV subscriber who would like to voice my objection to the pending merger of EchoStar and DIRECTV. The combination of these two satellite providers will eliminate competition to consumers like me, limiting my choices in channels, programming, broadband and new television technologies.

By merging, the combined company will be one less competitor to cable television and will not be motivated to offer more programming choices. Satellite television is already a strong alternative to cable in our community. (I currently use DishNetwork to access programming in our rural area.) I believe the promise of the merger - 'bringing the availability of affordable high-speed Internet service by satellite to over 40 million Americans who don't have high-speed Internet access.' Is just that a promise. I believe with less competition there will be less of a need to compete.

Promises for Satellite-delivered Internet service are equally optimistic. Currently there are several viable alternatives for High speed internet none of which are truly cost effective. Furthermore High-Speed internet access is not necessary for E-Mail and general information gathering necessary for education. High-Speed internet only serves the industries that promote it as another means to sell media to the consumer.

As a rural Satellite-TV customer I enjoy the low cost brought about by the competition between DirectTV and DishNetwork. While the programming these two industries is similar the cost are competitive. The elimination of one of these direct broadcast Satellite-TV vendors will eliminate the competition in this segment not serviced by cable TV.

In the interest of maintaining and improving our access to competitive television and Internet service, I urge you to oppose this merger.

Sincerely,

Michael Hamby
2005 Blue Creek Road
Tullahoma, TN 37388